

LINER'S REGISTRY
UNKNOWN TO U-BOATLaconia Survivors Say It Was
Learned Only After
Torpedoing.

LAST MINUTE OF HOYS

Father Sargent Tells Thrilling
Story of Pitiful Deaths
in Boat.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.
LONDON, Feb. 28.—Survivors of the torpedoed Laconia, who have arrived in London agree completely that the crew of the submarine had not the slightest vestige of information as to what was the nationality of the vessel they sank.

It might have been an American ship they had sunk without warning for the Germans knew. Until they questioned the survivors huddled in the lifeboats they knew only that it was a big liner.

Two Americans, survivors of the horror, visited the American Embassy today to give their statements. They repeated the pitiful details of the deaths of Mrs. Hoy and her daughter and their burial in the sea.

See Declaration of War.

As the full horror and atrocity of the Laconia tragedy become known there is an increasing belief that the United States will declare war immediately on Germany. Rumors are flying about the city late this afternoon, at least one newspaper receiving a direct cable from the United States saying that the United States would go to war at any moment.

There is a strong demand for closer cooperation between England and the United States to prevent information regarding sailings of ships getting to Germany or to submarine commanders in the Atlantic.

It is pointed out that American newspapers published recently the full names of vessels entering the restricted zone. British officials declare this information undoubtedly proves highly valuable to the enemy and if possible it should be kept secret.

Among the eight persons who succumbed in the Laconia boat which landed at Bantley, was Tom Coffey of Baltimore, a member of the crew of the Cunard liner. It is not certain that Coffey was an American citizen, one report saying he was never naturalized in the United States.

The Rev. P. J. Sargent of Grenada, who administered the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church to seven persons who perished, told the following story of the death of Mrs. Mary Hoy and Miss Elizabeth Hoy of Chicago and Cedric P. Ivatt of London:

"Mrs. Hoy died in the arms of her daughter. Her body slipped off into the sea out of her daughter's weakened arms. The heartbroken daughter succumbed a few minutes afterward and her body fell over the side of the boat as we were tossed by the huge waves.

"In my water up to her knees for two hours, the daughter all the time bravely supported her aged mother, uttering words of encouragement to her. From the start both were violently seasick, which, coupled with the cold and exposure, gradually wore down their courage. They were brave women."

Boat Filled With Water.

The first to die in our boat was W. Irvine Robinson of Toronto. After his body had been consigned to the sea we tossed about for an hour, getting more and more water until the gunwales were almost level with the sea. Then Mr. Ivatt, who was not physically strong, succumbed in the arms of his fiancée, who was close beside him, trying in vain to keep him warm by throwing her wealth of hair about his neck.

"Even after he died she refused to give him up, and although the additional weight made the situation more dangerous for us all, we yielded to her pitiful pleading and allowed her to keep the body. It was taken aboard the rescue patrol, from which it was buried. The burial aboard the patrol, at which I officiated, was a solemn and memorable ceremony."

The Hoys were the next to pass away after Mr. Ivatt. Then a fireman died, and later two others of the crew who were too thinly clad to resist exposure. Altogether, we were in the boat ten hours. We were rescued in the middle of the morning."

ANOTHER AMERICAN LOST

William Eva, Laconia Victim, Was One, Says Cunard Line.

William Eva, who was lost when the steamship Laconia was torpedoed off the Irish coast Sunday night, was an American citizen, according to an announcement by Cunard Line officials last night. He was 74 years old and lived in California, where he was interested in mining. He served in the civil war as a marine on the Union side, it was said.

Until today it had been supposed that Mrs. Mary E. Hoy and her daughter, Miss Elizabeth Hoy of Chicago, were the only victims among the Laconia's passengers who were American citizens.

Eva sailed on an American passport issued by the British Consul here, and it had been assumed that he was a British subject. He applied for the emergency passport from the British Consul, after an American passport on which he had travelled to England a year ago had been cancelled by the State Department at Washington because he was unable to produce the Department with a birth certificate.

Officials of the Cunard Line said they had learned that Eva was born in England, but that he was brought to this country by his parents when he was 4 years old and that his father became a citizen before the boy came of age.

TEACHERS MUST BE CITIZENS.

Board of Education Votes to Adopt New Rule.

The Board of Education at its meeting yesterday voted to adopt the recommendation of the committee on laws and legislation that every person applying for a license to teach must present evidence to show that he is a citizen of the United States. An exception was made in the case of a teacher of modern languages, in which case the applicant, if not a citizen, must be required to present evidence that he has received a declaration of intention to become a citizen.

Fearing that Brownsville was not to get its just share of the \$7,214,275 appropriation recommended for new school buildings, alterations and sites, four members voted against the adoption of the report of the committee on elementary schools, on vocational and industrial training schools and on ballistics. Those voting in the negative were Arthur Somers, Egerton L. Winthrop, John Green and Mrs. Reba C. Barberger.

President William G. Willcox announced a special meeting of the board for next Wednesday to discuss the pension bill and the general education bill, known as the home rule bill which will be introduced in the Legislature.

AUSTRIA TO REPLY
TO WILSON TO-DAYAdopts German View of No
Turning Back in U-Boat
War.Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun from the
London Times.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 28.—The *Weaver* Zeitung says that the answer to the Austro-Hungarian Government to the United States in regard to submarine warfare will be handed to the American Ambassador, Mr. Penfield, probably tomorrow. It is understood that the reply adopts the German view and says clearly that for the Central Powers there can be no turning back.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—It has been officially established that the American sailing schooner *Lyman M. Law* was not sunk by an Austro-Hungarian submarine. The *Lyman* was reported to have been identified, and it now is assumed that she must have been German or possibly Turkish.

Embassy at Penfield, at Vienna called this report today, in response to inquiries from Secretary Lansing.

TAX RATE FOR 1917
SAME AS LAST YEARReport Shows Decrease of
\$68,538,470 in Manhattan
Realty Values.

Starting figures which carry out the estimates of depreciation in Manhattan real estate during the last few years were reported yesterday by the Tax Department, which says its estimate of loss during the year from October 1, 1915, to October 1, 1916, is \$68,538,470. Increases in other boroughs overcame this decrease, but only sufficiently to give the entire city a net increase in its real estate values of \$1,718,171. This is the smallest increase in the history of the greater city and it means that only \$171,817 is added to the borrowing capacity of the city.

The outstanding facts in a report, which shows that by holding rigidly to the tentative assessments announced several months ago for both real and personal property the Tax Department has been able to give the city a total taxable increase of \$9,352,904 over 1916. On this basis the tax rate for 1917 will probably be approximately the same as last year, which is desired by practically all city authorities. Last year there was a \$13,000,000 direct State tax, the like of which has not to be accounted for this year, but almost an equal amount will have to be provided to take care of budget increases and increased debt service.

It is reported that to obtain an increase in the assessment of ordinary real estate of even as much as \$1,718,171, the Tax Department officials had to adopt a procedure under which they rejected many thousands of applications for reductions in the assessments of ordinary real estate. The department fixer was discouraged from the start and lawyers and brokers who have made a practice of getting through thousands of claims for reductions which they handled on a percentage basis found business very bad at the Tax Department this year. But real estate was not the only taxable property on which original assessments were rigidly upheld.

Sweeping of personal assessments has met with comparatively little success, with the result that \$42,638,165 has been added to the total of which taxes will be paid this year. According to the Tax Department, individuals, estates and corporations are to pay personal taxes on property valued at \$419,121,212, against \$376,520,159 last year. Lawson Purdy, president of the Tax Board, said yesterday that collections of personal taxes during 1916 represented the largest percentage of the levy since consolidation. Up to February 1 more than 77 per cent of the tax had been collected, despite the fact that the increase in the assessment last year amounted to more than \$24,000,000.

Special franchises and real estate of corporations gave nearly \$15,000,000 of the \$50,000,000 total gain in the value of the taxable property. Through franchises sustained a largely increased assessment last year, their value is again advanced by \$26,214,383, making the total value of such properties \$44,847,445, and the assessment of real estate of corporations is increased by \$8,792,448 in a total assessment of \$222,611,000.

"Manhattan's great loss in real estate values was largely south of Fourteenth street, in neighborhoods which have been going back for several years. In most parts of the borough Tax Department figures show values to be lower than they have been since the boom twelve years ago. Some few properties are assessed now for as little as 20 per cent of their highest values. But the story is not entirely one of recessions. Especially around the Grand Central station values have gone up by large amounts in Brooklyn, The Bronx, Queens and Richmond substantial increases are recorded."

Mr. Purdy expressed the opinion that values had advanced the lowest point, and that on account of the completion of the great subway system and because of the benefits of the zoning laws, the depressed sections would soon start on an upward course.

DEACON LANDRY'S BODY HERE.

Victim of Pennsylvania Wreck
Would Have Been Buried in June

The body of the Rev. Francis Landry, 26 years old, one of the twenty persons killed Tuesday in the Pennsylvania Railroad wreck at Mount Union, Pa., was brought yesterday to the home of his sister, Miss Marie Landry, at 383 State street, Brooklyn.

After having been graduated from St. Francis College, Brooklyn, Mr. Landry began his theological studies at Loreto, Pa. He recently was ordained a subdeacon and was to be raised to the priesthood in June. A solemn requiem mass will be celebrated tomorrow morning in the Church of Our Lady of Mercy on Schermerhorn street.

MAY BAR U. S. APPLES.

Australian Premier So Intimates to
Aid Home Groups.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—William Morris Hughes, the Australian Premier, says that he is in Melbourne responding to a delegation which called on him that the importation of American apples would probably be prohibited.

The delegation visited the Premier with regard to the restrictions on the export of apples, and the Premier promised to do his utmost to assist crops.

Flora Zabelle to Appear.
Flora Zabelle (Mrs. Raymond Hitchcock) will temporarily take the place of Louise Dresser, who fell and broke her arm on the stage at the Liberty Theatre Tuesday night while singing the principal feminine role in "Have a Heart."

Miss Dresser's physicians declared that she would be able to leave the hospital in three or four days, but will have to have her arm in splints for a time before returning to her place in the cast.

HOUSE REVENUE BILL
PASSED BY SENATEAll Amendments Dropped as
Republicans Fight Measure
Bitterly.

STRICT PARTY VOTE CAST

La Follette for First Time in
Years Backed by
G. O. P.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—The Democratic revenue bill designed to raise \$250,000,000 by special taxes and bond issues passed the Senate at 12:22 o'clock this morning by a vote of 47 to 33 on a strict party vote.

Prior to the final vote, a motion to recommit, with instructions to report out a protective tariff bill, was lost by a vote of 24 to 51, several Progressive Republicans voting with the Democrats.

The final vote came after the Senate had consumed more than four hours in debate on the measure up to a conference between the two bodies which would not go back to the House and will become law when signed by the President.

Immediately after the vote Senator Stone moved to adjourn until 12:30 o'clock, so as to clear the legislative situation for consideration of the armed neutrality bill.

Senator Penrose countered with a motion to adjourn to 10:30 tomorrow morning and when that had been voted down another by Senator La Follette was beaten. Then a motion to adjourn until 12:55 A. M. was carried by a vote of 49 to 9.

The vote on the amendments began promptly at 8 o'clock and the first to be killed were eleven proposed by Senator La Follette to eliminate the bond issue provision in the bill and substitute in its place higher income and inheritance tax rates. They were beaten by consistent party majorities.

The twenty-first roll call came on Senator Weeks's substitute for the entire revenue bill proposing an issue of twenty serial bonds, redeemable one-twentieth each year, and to draw interest at the rate of 4 per cent, and to be issued for \$747,945,469. This amendment was lost by a vote of 58 to 18. Many Republican Senators voted against it, including all of the Progressives and some of the conservatives like Penrose, Harding, Curtis and Townsend.

Early in the afternoon the Finance Committee under the leadership of Senator Simmons petitioned all of the amendments put in by the Senate caucus and reported out, including those limiting the number of amendments to six months after the proclamation that the war in Europe had closed and the limitations of the excess profits tax.

The amendments to clear up the ambiguity of the House bill language in regard to invested capital—which Tax Board pointed out and which led to a correction—were also cast overboard and the bill passed with all its uncertainties and crudities as it came from the hands of the House.

One of the important features of the bill sacrificed to avoid the uncertainty of a conference was the authorization of a refunding scheme for the \$24,000,000 Spanish-American war bonds, which mature next August. These are not provided for in the bill. The surrender of Senate amendments also cuts the limit of the authorization of the issue of Treasury notes from \$500,000,000 to \$200,000,000.

The Senate also voted out of the bill the Underwood amendment changing the tax on oleomargarine, 39 to 21. The dairy farmers were too many and too powerful for the advocates of artificial butter. Senator Underwood made an impassioned appeal for his offering.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—News print paper manufacturers who have proposed the Federal Trade Commission that it fix prices for their product submitted to the commission today the cost figures for their mills and asked that the price allowed permit them still to do business at a profit. Present costs, they declared, would mount during the year because of the scarcity of wood and advancing labor prices.

P. T. Dodge, head of the International Paper Company, said his concern at present was making news print at a far less profit than on other grades of paper. He insisted that last year's rise in news print prices was due to increasing costs and to an unusual demand. One of his mills, he said, was selling paper now on contract at a price actually less than the cost of production.

For years, he explained, paper mills had made little money, and prospects for the future were not bright because forests were disappearing.

Mr. Dodge declared the International Paper Company had no watered stock and that failure to pay dividends was due to the fact the company had made no money.

The manufacturers will be heard again tomorrow. Paper jobbers will appear Friday before the commission to give their views as to fair and equitable prices. The commission, it is understood, has come to no decision whether it will set a maximum price for all mills or fix a sliding scale permitting mills with higher costs to charge higher prices for their output.

Harry Balfe Issues Denial.
Harry Balfe, president of Austin, Nichols & Co., issued a statement last night declaring that John W. Brown, who was listed as general sales manager of the company in the names of members of committees handling the movement to elect a business man as Mayor, does not hold that position with the concern. Mr. Balfe's statement, accompanied by a letter from Mr. Brown, in which he states that the use of the firm's name in the movement was unauthorized, and that his interest "is entirely personal."

88 Harvard Men Get Degrees.
CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Feb. 28.—Eighty-eight Harvard students who finished their college work at mid year received their maximum year for all miles or fix a sliding scale permitting mills with higher costs to charge higher prices for their output.

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FINLAND SPED WITH
'OLD GLORY' AGLOWAmerican Liner, in Yesterday,
Shot Through U-Boat Zone
Like Meteor.Passenger Service With Eng-
land Will Be Continued
by British Lines.

If any lurking German submarine commander saw through his periscope the Finland rushing through the night he could not have helped knowing her nationality. The Stars and Stripes were painted on her sides and the design was illuminated; the ensign flew over her mast, picked out vividly by a searchlight focused upon it.

She dashed through the barred zone like a meteor as her skipper, Capt. J. B. Hill, desired. He wanted the hidden Germans' adroitly to realize he was commanding a Yankee liner and that his only protection was the flag of Yankee neutrality. The feeling of the passengers, chiefly American citizens, was one of apprehension.

They had been drilled in the use of lifeboats and assigned to lifeboats in case a German submarine should smite the ship. The periscope peepers may have seen the Finland, but nobody aboard her was aware of it, and she cleared the danger area without mishap.

After that they were entitled to take off their clothes and sleep the slumber of the guinea, unprotected. They described the voyage upon the liner's arrival here yesterday from Liverpool.

Worse Than the Trenches.
Among the Finland's cabin voyagers were several who had been in the trenches of France and heard German shells hissing overhead. They had more qualms on the American liner than they had in the theatre of war, where they had felt comparatively safe, and they did not hesitate to call attention to the contrast.

Col. Frederick Hale, United States Senator-elect from Maine, who has been in France noting how the British and French armies are fighting, said he believed the war would end within a year. He had talks with Premier Briand and Premier Lloyd George and both told him they hoped the United States would enter the war.

Col. Hale said it was the desire of Lloyd George that America should play a prominent part in the peace negotiations, and that would follow the war in Europe. Col. Hale himself said even a small contingent of Americans in France would be morally worth an army to the British, warriors as the soldiers of Lafayette at Yorktown were to the Continental army.

Col. Hale was under fire on the British front at Ypres. The motor car in which he was riding with British officers was stalled and shells fell within forty yards of him. As a non-combatant he naturally was glad when the car got under way again.

Optimism of the Soldiers.
He noted that the British and French soldiers were unusually optimistic and cheerful, and that they had absolute faith in the triumph of their armies. Col. Hale also had talks with Lord Northcliffe, Mr. Asquith, Mr. Balfour and Lord Bryce, all of whom declared that America could be of immense assistance financially in the conflict, and that even a few Yankee soldiers sent to the front would be of inestimable value to the cause of the Entente Allies.

Frank H. Simonds, editor of the *Tribune*, also a passenger by the Finland, was inclined to believe that it would be quite a year before the Germans were defeated. He was two months on the French and British fronts and was under fire at Verdun, where his French admirers were giving a vaudeville performance in his honor in an improvised theatre. The German gunners got the range of the playhouse and caused the curtain to be rung down. On another occasion, while he was at Lunenburg, Gen. Joffre, they had fragments of German shells for dessert and moved to a pleasant place for coffee.

Although it was the impression of several passengers of the Finland that there would be no more sailings of pas-

enger carrying steamships between this port and England after the departure of the Finland, officials of the Cunard and White Star lines said positively that the passenger service would be continued. They announced that the White Star liner *Baltic* was on her way here, that the *Cunarder Carmania* had sailed recently and that other vessels also would sail regardless of the German submarine menace.

Refugee Serbian Boy.
Miss Elizabeth Shelley of Selma, Ala., brought in a blue-eyed, curly-haired four-year-old Serbian boy, whom she found in a Serbian village that had been destroyed by the Bulgarians. She was working as a Red Cross nurse when she discovered the youngster playing near the body of his mother. He was the only living creature left in the village, and Miss Shelley adopted him. He had to go to Ellis Island and fearfully parted from his foster mother, who will have no trouble getting him back to-day.

Miss Shelley was greeted by her brother, Capt. James E. Shelley of the Sixteenth United States Cavalry, who came up from the Mexican border to take care of her. The little boy, whose original surname is not known, has the Christian name of Bog, which in Serbian, Miss Shelley said, means "Love of God." The boy's surname is Shelley now.

Dr. Henry van Dyke, former American Minister to Holland, was not aboard the Finland, although he had been listed. It was said that he had gone to Spain and would return to the United States with Mr. Gerard, former American Ambassador to Germany.

Other passengers by the Finland were Lady Richard Wellesley, whose husband was killed in France; Winslow S. Pierce, Miss Goldie Collins, an Australian actress, who is here to marry Beaumont Alexander, also a native Australian; James P. Egan and Robert Wilson.

Mr. Pierce, who is counsel for the reorganization of the railroad of the country, said he would not be surprised if the brotherhood heads would be active in a conference with representatives of the railroads while here this time, with a view to taking up again the offer made by the Government of the roads for the entire matter over to the President.

Chief of the "Big Four" railroad brotherhoods will establish headquarters in Washington to-night to defend their organizations against two assaults which they expect within the week. Their first purpose is to fight against any act of Congress to jam through in its last hours the bills which have been introduced by Representative William C. Adamson and Senator Newlands providing for compulsory investigation in all railroad disputes and for the seizure by the Government of the roads for the entire matter over to the President.

Little prospect appears of the passage of the measures, although they have been reported out of committee. It is expected that Congress will devote the rest of its session to discussion of the President's proposal for armed neutrality. Opportunity exists, however, for the hasty adoption of the bills which are framed in response to the President's railroad programme.

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WILSON PREPARED
TO OPERATE TRAINSAnswer to Threat of "Big
Four." Says Close Friend
in House.WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—An attempt
on the part of the "Big Four" to carry
into effect the threat implied in their re-
cent communication to the railway brother-
hoods to take "aggressive action" un-
less the Supreme Court of the United
States handed down a decision on the
eight hour law by March 3 will be met
by drastic action on the part of Presi-
dent Wilson and Congress, according to
one of the President's closest friends in
the House.

The gathering here to-morrow of the four railway brotherhood chiefs is viewed with marked interest in circles which have been close to the legislative efforts of the President. Moreover, the threat of the brotherhoods, as exposed in THE SUN Monday morning, has aroused the deepest resentment among their erstwhile friends in the Administration ranks, and any "overt act" probably will be met by quick and aggressive action.

The next attempt the brotherhoods make to up the railroad of the country will result in the President operating the trains through Government agencies," said a member of the House Interstate Commerce Committee to-day.

The brotherhoods by their course are rapidly alienating the support they formerly commanded through the country. "It should not be surprised if the brotherhood heads would be active in a conference with representatives of the railroads while here this time, with a view to taking up again the offer made by the Government of the roads for the entire matter over to the President."

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